

Remarks:

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation that although the Examiner objects to claims 6-9 as depending from a rejected base claim, the Examiner indicates that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Nevertheless, claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2, as allegedly failing to particularly point out and to distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 1-5, 10, and 11 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Patent No. US 6,174,208 to Chen. Applicant respectfully traverses.

As noted above, Applicant is amending claim 5 to overcome the indefiniteness rejection and claim 1 to include the allowable subject matter of claim 6, and intervening claims 2-4. Further, allowable claims 7-9 are rewritten in independent form (new claims 12, 21, and 28) to include the limitations of their base claim, claim 1. In view of the foregoing amendments, each of the independent claims contains allowable subject matter and the remaining claims depend from allowable independent claims. Thus, Applicant maintains that the anticipation rejections of claims 1-5, 10, and 11 are moot, and Applicant respectfully traverses the objections to claims 6-9. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the anticipation rejection of amended claim 1, 5, 10, and 11 and allow claims 1, 5, and 7-34.

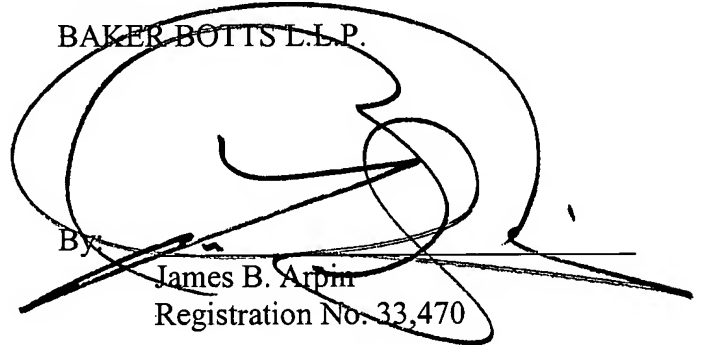
Conclusion:

Applicant respectfully submits that this application, as amended, is in condition for allowance, and such disposition is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that an

interview with Applicant's representatives, either in person or by telephone, would expedite prosecution of this application, we would welcome such an opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'James B. Arpin', is written over the typed name and registration number.

By

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Enclosures